

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33 were previously cancelled. Claims 34, 37, 53, 55, 57 and 58 are currently amended. Claims 35, 36, 38, 40, 50-52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70-74 are currently cancelled. Claims 39, 41-49, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67 and 69 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A guide element of a web processing machine comprising:

A rigid load bearing support ~~of an, which is~~ at least partially in part fluid-permeable support material and having a circumferential surface;

a layer of a micro-porous, air permeable material ~~covering on~~ said circumferential surface of said rigid, load bearing support;

a plurality of micro-openings in said layer of said micro-porous, air permeable material, ~~each with a diameter of less than 500 μ m,~~ said micro-openings being open pores formed in of said layer of said micro-porous material, said plurality of micro-openings being adapted to allow emergence of a fluid under pressure from said fluid-permeable support material and around at least a portion of said circumferential surface ~~an entire circumference~~ of at least one longitudinal section of said guide element; and

means supporting said guide element adapted to be positioned ~~for positioning~~ in a selected one of at least first and second ~~two~~ angular positions in respect to a direction of travel of a web contacting said guide element.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein in ~~each~~ both of said at least first and second angular positions of said guide element fluid exits from said micro-
openings~~sections~~ over an entire portion of said circumferential surface~~circumference~~ of said guide element in at least one longitudinal section.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element is pivotable through 90° and wherein in said first angular position a first half-shell-like half of a surface area is engaged by the web, and in said second angular position a second half-shell-like half of said surface area is engaged by the web.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said pores have a mean diameter between 5 μm and 50 μm .

42. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said porous material is an open-pored sinter material.

43. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 42 wherein said sinter material is sinter metal.

44. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said support has, on a side facing said layer, a support surface connected with said layer, and a plurality of openings adapted to feed the fluid to said layer.

45. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said layer has a thickness of less than 1 mm.
46. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said support has a plurality of passages, which are not connected with each other, extending over a length and width of said support.
47. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said support is a support tube with a hollow profile.
48. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 47 wherein said support tube has a wall thickness of at least 3 mm.
49. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein a degree of opening of said micro-openings is between 3% and 30% of an outer surface area of said layer of porous material.
- 50-52. (Cancelled)
53. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein between 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of air per hour emerges from a square meter of said circumferential surface.
54. (Cancelled)
55. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters of air per hour emerge from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said layer of micro-porous, air permeable material is charged from an-the interior of said rigid load bearing support with at least 1 bar of excess pressure.

58. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is charged from an-the interior of said rigid load bearing support with an excess pressure of more than 4 bar.

59. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 further including a feed line adapted to supply fluid to said guide element and having an inner cross-sectioned area no greater than 100 mm².

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element has an outer diameter of between 60 mm and 100 mm.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element has a length of at least 1,200 mm.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element is a turning bar.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein the fluid under pressure is compressed air.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said layer has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

70-74. (Cancelled)